

Michigan's Race to the Top

In order to successfully compete for Race to the Top funds, Michigan must first commit to reform and enact legislation that positions us to take full advantage of this important opportunity. Over the next three weeks, the Michigan legislature must take up and pass bills to accomplish the following:

1. Require school principals to be certified. (Today, Michigan is alone among the states in not requiring this certification, a distinction that can only hold us back in the Race to the Top.)
2. Create high-quality alternative routes to certification for both teachers and administrators to help bring more of our best and brightest into education.
3. Give our state superintendent clear authority to intervene in low-performing schools.
4. When failing schools are clustered in a few school districts, we must have the power to bring about the systemic changes needed to make individual school turnaround possible.
5. Find ways to increase the number of high-quality charter schools in the state.
6. Require an annual evaluation of teachers, principals, and other leaders that uses student growth data along with other factors.